

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for automatically commissioning a user terminal to exchange traffic over a two-way satellite communication system, the method comprising:
 - receiving location information associated with an antenna;
 - instructing a user to point the antenna to a beacon satellite using predefined pointing values based upon the location information;
 - establishing a temporary channel over the beacon satellite to a hub;
 - collecting user information over the temporary channel to the hub;
 - receiving network configuration parameters and antenna pointing parameters downloaded from the hub;
 - selectively instructing the user to re-point the antenna based upon the downloaded antenna pointing parameters; and
 - configuring the user terminal based upon the downloaded network configuration parameters.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the beacon satellite in the establishing step has a designated default transponder to support the temporary channel.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the hub in the establishing step has connectivity to a packet switched network.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the packet switched network is an IP (Internet Protocol) network, the temporary channel supporting TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol).
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the network configuration parameters in the receiving step include IP address of the user terminal, and an IP address of a domain name server.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the antenna pointing parameters in the receiving step include satellite longitude (East or West), satellite longitude, satellite polarization, satellite polarization offset, and satellite frequency.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the user information in the collecting step include billing information, account information, and service plan selection information.
8. A system for performing auto-commissioning over a two-way satellite network, the system comprising:

a transceiver configured to transmit and receive signals over the two-way satellite network;

an antenna coupled to the transceiver; and

a user terminal coupled to the transceiver and configured to execute a setup program,

wherein the program instructs a user to point the antenna to a beacon satellite using predefined pointing values based upon the location of the antenna, the user providing user information over a temporary channel that is established via the beacon satellite to a hub that is configured to download network configuration parameters and antenna pointing parameters to the user terminal, the user selectively re-pointing the antenna based upon the downloaded antenna pointing parameters, the user terminal being configured based upon the downloaded network configuration parameters.

9. The system according to claim 8, wherein the beacon satellite has a designated default transponder to support the temporary channel.

10. The system according to claim 8, wherein the hub has connectivity to a packet switched network.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the packet switched network is an IP (Internet Protocol) network, the temporary channel supporting TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol).

12. The system according to claim 8, wherein the network configuration parameters include IP address of the user terminal, and an IP address of a domain name server.

13. The system according to claim 8, wherein the antenna pointing parameters include satellite longitude (East or West), satellite longitude, satellite polarization, satellite polarization offset, and satellite frequency.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the user information include billing information, account information, and service plan selection information.

15. A system for performing auto-commissioning over a two-way satellite network, the system comprising:

means for receiving location information associated with an antenna;

means for instructing a user to point the antenna to a beacon satellite using predefined pointing values based upon the input location information;

means for establishing a temporary channel over the beacon satellite to a hub;
means for collecting user information over the temporary channel to the hub;
means for receiving network configuration parameters and antenna pointing parameters downloaded from the hub;

means for selectively instructing the user to re-point the antenna based upon the downloaded antenna pointing parameters; and

means for configuring the user terminal based upon the downloaded network configuration parameters.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein the beacon satellite has a designated default transponder to support the temporary channel.

17. The system according to claim 15, wherein the hub has connectivity to a packet switched network.

18. The system according to claim 17, wherein the packet switched network is an IP (Internet Protocol) network, the temporary channel supporting TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol).

19. The system according to claim 15, wherein the network configuration parameters include IP address of the user terminal, and an IP address of a domain name server.

20. The system according to claim 15, wherein the antenna pointing parameters include satellite longitude (East or West), satellite longitude, satellite polarization, satellite polarization offset, and satellite frequency.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein the user information include billing information, account information, and service plan selection information.

22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for automatically commissioning a user terminal to exchange traffic over a two-way satellite communication system, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving location information associated with an antenna;

instructing a user to point the antenna to a beacon satellite using predefined pointing values based upon the location information;

establishing a temporary channel over the beacon satellite to a hub;
collecting user information over the temporary channel to the hub;
receiving network configuration parameters and antenna pointing parameters downloaded from the hub;

selectively instructing the user to re-point the antenna based upon the downloaded antenna pointing parameters; and

configuring the user terminal based upon the downloaded network configuration parameters.

23. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the beacon satellite in the establishing step has a designated default transponder to support the temporary channel.

24. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the hub in the establishing step has connectivity to a packet switched network.

25. The computer-readable medium according to claim 24, wherein the packet switched network is an IP (Internet Protocol) network, the temporary channel supporting TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol).

26. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the network configuration parameters in the receiving step include IP address of the user terminal, and an IP address of a domain name server.

27. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the antenna pointing parameters in the receiving step include satellite longitude (East or West), satellite longitude, satellite polarization, satellite polarization offset, and satellite frequency.

28. The computer-readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the user information in the collecting step include billing information, account information, and service plan selection information.